

CLAIMS

1. A security device comprising one or more printed or transferred first areas, each first area having one or more 5 first colours;

one or more printed or transferred second areas, each second area having one or more second colours, wherein at least one of the first and second areas comprises a discontinuous pattern, and wherein the first area or areas 10 surrounds the second area or areas, each first area being distinguishable from the second area or areas;

wherein the first area(s) and/or second area(s) define an image; and,

15 a camouflage pattern provided over the image and at least an adjacent region surrounding the image, the camouflage pattern having a colour and pattern such that in combination with the first and second areas, it renders the image substantially invisible when viewed under reflected light but visible when viewed in transmission.

20 2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the discontinuous pattern comprises an array of dots which is either regular or stochastic.

3. A device according to claim 2, wherein the discontinuous pattern comprises a half-tone dot array.

25 4. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the discontinuous pattern comprises a regular array of similarly sized and shaped dots.

5. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the discontinuous pattern comprises an array of 30 circles, squares, lines, indicia such as alphanumerics, graphical shapes and the like.

6. A device according to any of claims 2 to 5, wherein each dot has a maximum lateral dimension of less than 1.5mm, preferably less than 1mm.

35 7. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the discontinuous pattern is substantially the same

colour as the colour, or a major colour, of another of the areas.

8. A device according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the discontinuous pattern has more than one colour, a major 5 colour of the discontinuous pattern being substantially the same as the colour, or a major colour, of another of the areas.

9. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the elements making up the discontinuous pattern 10 cover an area of 50-80%, preferably 60-70%, of the first or second area in which the discontinuous pattern is provided.

10. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the camouflage pattern comprises a line pattern.

11. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 15 wherein elements making up the camouflage pattern and background areas between the elements of the discontinuous pattern are approximately the same size.

12. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 20 wherein at least one of the first and second areas exhibits a rainbow colour variation.

13. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 25 wherein the camouflage pattern defines elements having a width in the range 0.1-1.5mm and a separation of 0.1-4mm, preferably having a width of 0.25-1.25mm and a separation of 0.25-3mm.

14. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the camouflage pattern has an ink coverage of 50-90%, preferably 55-75%.

15. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 30 wherein the camouflage pattern has a colour which is the same or similar to that of the background regions between elements of the discontinuous pattern.

16. A device according to any of claims 1 to 14, wherein 35 the camouflage pattern has a colour which contrasts with the colour(s) of the first and second areas.

17. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the camouflage pattern includes a distinctive pattern or indicia.

18. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 5 wherein the camouflage pattern comprises a black or white line design.

19. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 10 wherein the camouflage pattern has been printed using one of intaglio, litho, gravure, screen, flexo, ink jet, laser, toner transfer, or digital printing, or dye diffusion.

20. A device according to any of claims 1 to 18, wherein the discontinuous pattern is formed by a partially demetallised metal layer.

21. A device according to any of claims 1 to 18, 15 wherein the discontinuous pattern was formed by transfer of elements from a carrier.

22. A device according to any of claims 1 to 18, wherein the discontinuous pattern and other area(s) were printed simultaneously.

23. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 20 wherein the colour of the area(s) adjacent to the discontinuous pattern contrasts with the apparent colour of the discontinuous pattern so as to enable the image to be seen in transmission.

24. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 25 wherein the first area(s) forms part of a larger design printed on the substrate on which the security device is provided.

25. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 30 wherein the first and second area(s) were printed using one or more of litho, gravure, screen, flexo, ink jet, laser, toner transfer, or digital printing, or dye diffusion.

26. A device according to any of claims 1 to 24, wherein 35 the area(s) not including the discontinuous pattern was provided as a foil or holographic patch.

27. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the area(s) not including the discontinuous pattern exhibit a rainbow colour variation.

28. A device according to any of the preceding claims, 5 wherein the area(s) not including the discontinuous pattern are provided as one of a solid colour or colours or a half-tone.

29. A device according to claim 28, wherein the solid colour area is broken up with one or more fine lines.

10 30. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the device is provided on a background with a flat tint such as white.

15 31. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the image comprises one or more geometric figures, alphanumeric characters and graphical designs.

32. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the device is provided on a paper or polymer substrate.

20 33. A security device comprising one or more printed or transferred first areas; one or more printed or transferred second areas, wherein at least one of the first and second areas defines a discontinuous pattern, and wherein the first area or areas surrounds the second area or areas, wherein the areas are formed from one or more reflective media, and wherein the form of the discontinuous pattern and the other area(s) are chosen such that the image is not visible under reflected light but is visible when viewed in 25 transmission.

34. A device according to claim 33, wherein the first and 30 second areas are embossed or overprinted with an image.

35. A device according to claim 33 or claim 34, wherein the discontinuous pattern is a printed metallic ink.

36. A device according to claim 33 or claim 34, wherein 35 the discontinuous pattern is a printed OVI or other colour shifting ink.

37. A device according to any of claims 33 to 36, wherein the first and second areas are printed metallic inks.

38. A document or article carrying a security device according to any of the preceding claims.

39. A document according to claim 38, wherein the security device is provided on an area of a document which is more 5 transparent than other areas of the document.

40. A document according to claim 38 or claim 39, wherein the document is a banknote.

41. A security label comprising a security device according to any of claims 1 to 37 provided on a substrate; 10 and an adhesive on the substrate.